

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, as amended herein. Claims 6-22 were pending in the application. In this amendment, Claims 6, 7, and 9-12 have been amended; and Claims 15, 17-21 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, Claims 6-14, 16, and 22 are pending in the application.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant wishes to add a paragraph to the specification in the section labeled **DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS**. The paragraph was originally included in the application as originally filed, but was inadvertently omitted from the substitute specification filed with the prior response and Request for Continued Examination. Applicant respectfully requests that the paragraph be added. No new matter is included.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claims 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant has amended Claim 11 to remove reference to RFID and websites. Additionally, Applicant has canceled Claims 15, 17-21 to obviate the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph issues.

Applicant has amended Claim 12 to change the claimed element from a 'database' to a 'repository'. Support for a 'repository' is provided throughout the specification. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 6-10, 12-13, 16, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wertheim (U.S. Pat. No. 6,269,372). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Wertheim discloses a method to refer one person to another by identifying a contact using a vehicle license plate number. In contrast, the present invention establishes a communication system in which an address, whether for email, instant messaging, or telephone, actually includes the license plate number. While the present invention enables a correlation between email addresses from other providers and the electronic address that includes the license plate number, a key feature of the present invention is that the license plate number is the electronic address, at least in part. No correlation is required. By using the electronic address containing the license plate number, a motorist can send and receive messages directly to and from a vehicle, which is

identified only by its license plate number. Independent Claims 6 and 12 have been amended to define the limitations more clearly. Accordingly, nothing in Wertheim discloses or suggests all the limitations of independent Claims 6 and 12. As Wertheim does not disclose all the limitations of the claims, the present invention is patentably distinguished.

With regard to Claims 19-21, Applicant has canceled Claims 19-21 and respectfully suggests that the rejection is moot for those claims.

With regard to Claims 7-10, 13, 16, and 22, Claims 7-10, 13, 16, and 22 depend from independent Claims 6 and 12, respectively, and incorporate the same limitations as Claims 6 and 12, which, as described above, are patentably distinguished from Wertheim. Thus, Claims 7-10, 13, 16, and 22 are, likewise, patentably distinguished. MPEP §2143.03, *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 11, 14-15, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wertheim (U.S. Pat. No. 6,269,372). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

With regard to Claims 15 and 17-18, Applicant has canceled Claims 15 and 17-18 and respectfully suggests that the rejection is moot for those claims.

As noted by the Examiner, Wertheim does not specifically teach that the electronic address is standardized for instant messaging and RFID. Claim 11 has been amended to remove the limitations associated with RFID and websites. However, as described above, Wertheim also does not disclose use of the license plate number as the electronic address. Nor does Wertheim disclose such electronic address for use with telephone. Therefore, the present invention is patentably distinguished.

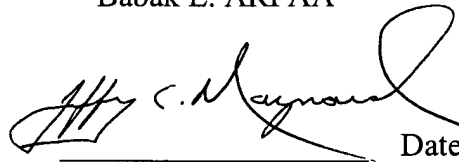
Moreover, Claims 11 and 14 depend from independent Claims 6 and 12, respectively, and incorporate the same limitations as Claims 6 and 12, which, as described above, are patentably distinguished from Wertheim. Thus, Claims 11 and 14 are, likewise, patentably distinguished. MPEP §2143.03, *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a diligent effort to address the objections and rejections identified by the Examiner, and respectfully submits that the outstanding objections and rejections in the

Office Action have been overcome. In view of the above amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be patentable, and thus, the case is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. In the event that there is any question concerning this response, or the application in general, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below so that additional changes may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
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